

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
In person and Electronic Public Meeting

****NOTE – All votes were done by Roll Call Vote**

Present: President Freese, Trustees: Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes.

Absent: Puckett.

Also Present: Village Manager – Watkins, Clerk – Schummer, Newberry News - Sterling McGinn, Tim and Donna Quinlan, all in person, and Steve Stiffler via ZOOM.

Call to Order: President Freese called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Village Garage, 810 Charles Road, Newberry, MI. and via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approved the agenda as presented. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett

Minutes: Moved by Stokes, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021, Regular Village Council Electronic Session as written. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

Village President’s Announcements: President Freese stated she had been in contact with Trustee Puckett who was absent from the meeting due to a medical reason.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- A.) Village of Newberry monthly Bills: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the March 13, – April 15, 2021 bills, in the amount of \$62,763.36. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
- B.) Water & Light monthly bills: Moved by Stokes, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to pay the Electric and Water Fund bills for March 16 – April 9, 2021, with a total amount of \$110,188.29 Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
- C.) Bond payment due May 1, 2021: Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to make water bond payment for a total of \$59,765.66. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
- D.) Request for Payment – McGahey: Informational only. McGahey request #8 in the amount of \$14,715.00 was paid.
- E.) 2021 1st Quarter Revenue and Expense Reports: For review. Discussion followed.
- F.) Christmas Lights Fund – as of 3/31/21 - \$15,997.50.
- G.) Treasurer’s Report:
 - a.) March 2021 – N. Moulton submitted a written report. Council accepted the report as presented.

Petitions and Communications:

- a.) Customer form and invoice regarding private sewer line at 214 E Ave. A – Ryan Holbrook. Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to refer this to the DPW/WWTP Committee. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.

- b.) Letter and Invoices regarding private sewer line at 402 W. John Street – Tim and Donna Quinlan. Mr. and Mrs. Quinlan presented information regarding their request for reimbursement for a sewer line issue. Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to refer this to the DPW/WWTP Committee. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett. Moved by Stokes, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, that the DPW/WWTP Committee make a recommendation to the Council, at the next regular meeting, as to how to handle the requests made by Mr. Holbrook and Mr. and Mrs. Quinlan. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

- 1.) Ordinance 53 – Duties of Village Council and Committees.
i. Ordinance Committee recommends adoption. Moved by Hendrickson, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to adopt Ordinance 53 as introduced to the Council. Discussion followed. One of the changes made by this ordinance is that the DPW/WWTP Committee will now fall under the Infrastructure Committee. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) 2019 Audit: Watkins gave an update.
2.) 2020 Audit Update: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, that the Council accept the bid from Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC, to do the 2020, 2021 and 2022 audit. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
3.) Water Rate Changes:
a.) Water Rate Study update: Watkins gave an update.
i. Great Lakes Community Action Partnership – Rural Community Assistance Program: Watkins is providing information and working with this group.
ii. Request for Council Representative for rate review: Moved by Stokes, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to appoint Freese to be Council representative for the Rate Review Committee. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
4.) Generator Update: Watkins gave the update. We are still waiting for the official report and costs to have the generator fixed. Watkins is meeting with our insurance company later in the week.
5.) Coldwell Banker Request for reimbursement for private sewer line backup: Council is still waiting for more details. Moved by Freese, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to refer this to the Infrastructure Committee (f/k/a DPW/WWTP Committee). Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
6.) Water & Light Board – Vacancy: Moved by Freese, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to have the Village Manager continue to advertise that there is an opening on the Water and Light Board. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
7.) Public Comment Follow-Up from Previous Meeting: None needed.

New Business:

- 1.) Sewer Backups – Establishing a process for reporting and reimbursement of requests: Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, request the Infrastructure Committee to develop a process for reporting and making reimbursements for sewer claims. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
2.) Pole Study – request for approval to release a RFP (Request for Proposal): Moved by Stokes, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to approve the Village Manager release a request for RFP's for a pole study. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.

- 3.) MEDC CDBG WIP (Michigan Economic Development Corporation – Community Development Block Grant – Water-related Infrastructure) Grant Application: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to authorize the Village Manager, to do what needs to be done to be ready for the next round of Grants, as there was not enough time to get ready for this round. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.
- 4.) Capital Improvement Plan Draft: For review.
- 5.) Truth in Taxation Hearing: The hearing is scheduled to be held at the beginning of the next regular Council meeting, May 18, 2021.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board: Regular and electronic meeting minutes for April 14, 2021, were presented. Stokes gave the report. Stokes advised that Harold Dishaw stated that people are still putting non-metal objects into the dumpster. By doing this, it takes money away from the Save the Bells project, as it costs money to then dispose of the non-metal objects.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: March 22, 2021 – cancelled.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) Ordinance Committee: March 30, 2021, meeting minutes provided. Report made by Stokes.
- 2.) Management Committee: April 8, 2021 meeting held. Report made by Freese.
- 3.) Garbage Committee: April 12, 2021 meeting minutes provided. Report by Hardenbrook.
- 4.) Finance Committee: April 15, 2021 meeting minutes provided. Report by Freese.

Reports of Village Officers & Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: None.
- B.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant & DPW: Written report submitted by Superintendent Blakely.
- C.) Working Superintendent of Water & Light: Written report submitted by Working Superintendent Kucinskas.
- D.) Village Manager: Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report.

Public Comment: None

Comments by Council Members: Comments heard from Schummer, Cameron, Stokes, Freese.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Puckett.

These minutes are unofficial until voted on at the next meeting.

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Catherine Freese, Village President